



HENRY

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and to all spiritual persons. And also to all Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, and to all other persons.

And to all our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

WE CERTAINLY are credibly given to understand, by a Certificate under the handes of our right trusty and welbelov'd Cousen Robert Saile of Warwick, and William Lord Peter, William Towle Serjeant at Law, Robert Millan Doctor of Divinity, William Ayliffe, Robert Sandford, Thomas Faulshaw, and William Beriffe Esquires, Justices of the Peace within our County of Essex, That our poore distrest Subject Henry Kent of Copford in our foresaid County Inhabiter, hath alwaies bene a man of benevolence

and conversation, very painefull and industrious to live, and ready and willing upon all occasions according to his ability to contribute towards the reliefe of others necessities, but he is now fallen into great want and poverty, by reason of a fobaine and lamentable fire having on the tenth day of May last past, which consumed and burnt a great dwelling house of his, being the pynny all meane and onely stay of his living, with all the houses, stables and implements thereunto belonging, together also with a great quantity of Hay and Barley amounting in the whole losse to the value of Two hundred pounds and upwards, So the better binding of our said poore Subject who before this untimely accident lived well and gave reliefe unto others, but hath little or small meane now left to help himselfe being much behinde hand & indebted, whereby great misery is like to fall upon him, his poore Wife and Children, unless some charitable course be forthwith taken for their reliefe herein, whose poore estate we have thought good upon the humble sute of our foresaid Lords and Justices made unto us on their behalves, to commend the same unto the charitable consideration of all our loving and well disposed Subjects within certaine Counties hereafter mentioned, not doubting but that all good Christians well weighing the uncertainty of mans estate through these inevitable accidents, will be ready and willing as loving members one of another's misery to extend their liberall Contributions towards the reliefe and comfort of their distressed brother in this his great necessity, none knowing how soon nor whose chance may next happen into the like calamity.

WE HAVE therefore, that of Our speciall Grace and Princely compassion, We have given and granted, and by these our Letters Patents doe give and grant, unto our said poore Subject Henry Kent, and to his Deputy and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and Authority, to aske, gather, receive and take the Almes, and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects whatsoever, Inhabiting within our Counties of Middlesex, Kent, Essex, Cambridge, Suffolke, and Norfolk, with our Cities of Canterbury, Rochester, and the Cinque Ports, with our City of Norwich, our University of Cambridge & Isle of Ely, And in all Townes Corporate, Primitived places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties and not else where, for and towards the recovery of his said losses, and the reliefe and maintenance of himselfe his poore Wife and Children.

WE CERTAINLY will and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times as the said Henry Kent, or his Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske, and receive, the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit, and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets, or contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better stirring up of a Charitable devotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, unto our said Subjects, upon some Sabbath day, when as the same shall be tendered unto you, Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a worke. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to Collect and gather the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects, as well Strangers as others, and what shall be by you so gathered to deliver it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents and to no other person. When as therunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these poore people, who sell their Licences unto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way but unto such as deserve it least: That from henceforth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appeare unto you or any of you, that the said Henry Kent have contracted any bargain, or made, or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from him to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be voyde and of none effect, Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision heretofore made to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding.

IN WITNESSE whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the Twelfth day of December, in the Eightieth yeare of our Kings of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the Fourth and fiftieth.

Steward.

God save the King

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Cum Privilegio